[Shri P. A. Sangma]

orts, social, economic and legislative measures and institutional mechanisms concerning the rural labour.

The recommendations of the Commission will need to be examined at length by the various Ministries|Departments in the Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, where necessary, before they are implemented.

Copies of the Report of the Commission have already been kept in the Parliament Library for the benefit of the Hon'ble Members.

Accidental death of Maj. Gen. A. M. Malik, Addl. Director-General, Military Training Army Hqrs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Sir, Maj. Gen. A. M. Malik, who was serving as Addl. Director General in the Directorate General of Military Training, Army HQrs., reportedly fell down from the staircase of 'A' Wing, Sena Bhavan, to the ground floor courtyard of the building and died instantly at about 1050 hours on 4th September, 1991. The Office of the Major General was located on the 7th Floor of the 'A' Wing, Sena Bhawan. From the first reports available, it is not known from which floor he fell.

The incident was first reported by the Security Staff posted in the 'A' Wing of Sena Bhavan. Immediately thereafter a number of senior officers of the Defence HQrs including the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and the Chief Adminsitrative Officer, Ministry of Defence, rushed to the site. The Delhi Police, who were immediately informed of the incident, arrived on the spot and are reported to have commenced their investigations. The post-mortem of the dead body, which has since been got done by the Police, indicates that the death of the General Officer was due to the fall from a high level.

Besides the investigations by the local Police authorities, as per Army Regulations, a Court of Inquiry headed by a Major General with two Brigadiers as Members has been ordered to investigate into the circumstances leading to the death of Major General Malik.

Incidents of Firing in Kirni Area of Poonch Sector on the Line of control, Jammu and Kashmir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Sir, The Kirni area of Poonch Sector, in Poonch District, Jammu & Kashmir, lies astride the line of Control, with houses both in Pak Occupied Kashmir and on our side, very close to the Line of Control. Approximately 16 houses lie close to the Line of Control on our side.

On the night of 23-8-1991 information was received that militants were hiding in some of the houses on our side of the LOC and a search was carried out by our troops on the dawn of 24-8-91. During the search operations, the militants fired on our troops and, subsequently, the Pakistani post, located opposite the houses, also opened fire on our troops in a bid to help the militants to escape.

Fire was exchanged between the Indian and Pakistani troops in this area on the following days. With a view to clear the militants and the Pakistani troops who were apparently present in these houses, our troops launched an operation on the night of 31st August|1st September, 1991 and cleared the entire area.

As per the existing arrangements, based on the discussions between the Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan, the situation was de-escalated and a Flag Meeting between the local Commanders was held on 3rd September, 1991. As a prelude to the holding of

the Flag Meeting, both sides agreed on a cease-fire in the sector to be effective from mid-night 2nd|3rd September, 1991. At the Flag Meeting it was decided, *inter-alia*, that there will be no firing in this Sector, including small arms fire. The two dead bodies of Pakistani Military personnel found in one of the houses on our side of the LOC were returned to the Pakistanis. It has also been decided that another Flag Meeting will be held on Sunday the 8th September, 1991 to further discuss all relevant matters and to ratify the understanding arrived at on 3rd September, 1991.

In the exchange of fire during this period both sides have suffered casualities. On our side, we lost one officer, one Junior Commissioned Officer and 6 Other Ranks. Two Officers, two JCOs and 43 Other Ranks were also injured, 28 of whom have suffered only minor injuries. While exact details of casualties on the Pakistani side are not known, bodies of one Officer and one Other Rank of the Pak Army were recovered from one of the houses cleared by our troops. Our troops also observed the Pakistani troops carrying away 20 bodies from the scene of the incident on the Pak side of the Line of Control.

The entire area upto the Line of Control in this Sector has been cleared of the militants|Pakistani troops. There is no cause for any undue concern. We trust that such localised incidents will be contained and the situation defused. Our forces remain fully prepared to effectively deal with any eventuality.

It is our sincere hope that there will be no recurrence of such incidents and that the Government of Pakstan will realise the need to maintain peace along the border and to fully abide by the Shimla Agreement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): The Minister has made two statements. I have got the names of some Members seeking clarifications. I want to take the sense of the House.

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, there is no quorum.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I have submitted these two statements. I request that the clarifications may be asked today and the business completed.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Let it be completed today.

6.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Let us then complete these clarifications on these two statements today. Shri Gautam.

श्री आनंद प्रकाश गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सेना मुख्यालय के सैन्य प्रशिक्षण महानिदेशालय में अपर महानिदेशक, मेजर जनरल ए० एम० मलिक की 4 सितम्बर, 1991 को हुई आकस्मिक मृत्यु के संबंध में माननीय रक्षा मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य प्रस्तुत किया है वह बहुत शार्ट है।.... (व्यवधान) मैं यह कह रहा था कि यह जो माननीय मंत्री जी ने वक्तव्य दिया है वह इतना छोटा है कि इसकी विस्तृत जानकारी नहीं दी गई है, मात्र सूचनात्मक है, जितना कि अखबारों में ही आया है। मेजर जनरल सातवीं मंजिल से नीचे आ करके गिरे, किन परिस्थितियों में गिरे, क्या हुआ, इसके बारे में चूंकि दिन की घटना है, इसलिए यह माना जा सकता है, यह संभावित है कि उस समय बहुत सारे लोग आफिस में रहे होंगे, उनको पहले से कोई इस प्रकार की घटना हुई उनके बारे में हुई या नहीं हुई इस प्रकार की कोई सूचना इसमें नहीं है ? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जिस सेना भवन में 7वीं मंजिल पर उनका कार्यालय था उसमें लिफ्ट थी और वह मेजर जनरल लिफ्ट का प्रयोग करते थे या नहीं करते थे, सीढ़ियों से उतरने की आवश्यकता उनकी थी या

नहीं थी, यह परिस्थितियां उनके सामने थीं तो सीढ़ी से एकदम से उनका गिर जाना, यह संभावित ऐसा लगता है कि जैसे जान-बूझ कर उन्हें किसी ने धक्का लगा दिया हो कि वह नीचे गिर जाएं ? पुलिस की सूचना के अनुसार एक तो जो पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट है उससे यह लगता है कि उनकी मृत्यु ऊंचाई से गिरने के कारण हुई है, उनके शव पर कितनी चोटें हैं, जिस प्रकार की चोटें हैं, इसका कोई जिक्र भी शव परीक्षण से मिला होगा लेकिन माननीय मंत्री जी के इस वक्तव्य में नहीं मिलता है ? मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि उनके शव परीक्षण से उनके शरीर पर किस प्रकार की चोटें और कौन-कौन सी चोटें आई है जिससे यह अंदाज लगाया जा सके कि यह घटना उनके किसी कारण से गिर पड़ने से हुई हैं या यह सुसाइड का केस है, होमीसाइड का केस है, या कोई और ऐसी स्थिति थी जिसके कारण कि यह घटना हुई हैं ? धन्यवाद ।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह हमारे रक्षा मंत्रालय के लिए और भारतीय सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिए भी मैं समझती हूं कि बड़ी चेतावनीपूर्ण और बड़ी गंभीर घटना है कि मेजर जनरल मलिक की इस तरह से दुर्घटना हो जाना और वह तमाम तरह की शंकाएं पैदा करती है कि सेना भवन इतना बड़ा और आधुनिक जो इमारत बनी हुई है तो क्या उसमें रेलिंग नहीं थी उस वक्त जिधर से वह आए हुए थे और जैसा कि समाचार-पत्रों में बताया गया हैं कि वहां कोई मिटिंग होने वाली थी, तो वहां किस विभाग की मीटिंग होने वाली थी और किससे संबंधित मीटिंग होने वाली थी ? महोदय मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी पूछना चाहूंगी कि समाचार-पत्रों में लिखा हुआ है कि मेजर जनरल मलिक पहले श्रीलंका में भी गए थे, भारतीय शांति सेना का भी प्रतिनिधित्व कर चुके थे, तो क्या यह पर उनको किसी प्रकार की कोई धमकी मिली थी ? दूसरी बात मान्यवर, यह है कि 10 बजकर 50 मिनट पर इस दुर्घटना को या इस घटना को बताया गया है तो उस वक्त अन्य व्यक्ति भी वहां होने चाहिएं और जब वह अपने कार्यालय से, अपने कक्ष से नीचे उतर रहे होंगे यहां नीचे से ऊपर जा रहे होंगे, क्योंकि इतने बड़े वह अधिकारी थे तो उनको स्टाफ भी जरूर मिला होगा, उनका सचिव या अर्दली उस समय कहां था ? यह मैं जानना चाहती हूं और रेलिंग नहीं थी तो क्या ऐसी संभावना है कि वे ऐसे ही सीढ़ियां उतरते-उतरते गिर सकते हैं ? महोदय, दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि उनका स्टाफ अर्दली या सचिव उस समय कहां था ? उन लोगों का बयान लिया गया या नहीं और क्या पूर्व में भी इस तरह की घटना इस बिल्डिंग में हुई है ?

SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, the statement is too sketchy. It appears to be a copy of the report published in the newspapers. Today is 6th September and I would request the hon. Minister to inform whether any statement from the persons present at the site has been recorded by the police. What has transpired? What is the FIR number? I would like to know whether any case has been registered by now. The hon. Minister must be in a position to say the FIR number. Also, I would like to know from which floor, whether from the fourth floor or the seventh floor, did he fall? The statement which has been given to us does not enable us to understand what has actually happened. I would also like to ask whether it is possible to fall from the fourth floor in the circumstances in which it has taken place. Normally speaking these buildings are no constructed in such a way that on could fall and die, while climbing up and down the stairs. There must have been abnormal things and the matter cannot be taken as lightly a the statement appears to take it.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो मृत्यु है, यह रहस्यमय लगती है । यह साधारण मृत्यु दिखायी नहीं देती । मैं दो बातें मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा । आपने इसमें सिर्फ एक समय बताया है कि 10.50 बजे सवेरे 4 सितंबर को उनकी मृत्यु हुई और वह सातवीं मंजिल से सीढ़ियों से गिरे । क्या इतना भवन में सीढ़ियों पर किसी किस्म का कोई सेक्युरिटी गार्ड नहीं है कि 7वीं मंजिल से गिरते-गिरते कोई सेक्युरिटी वाला बीच में नहीं था जो उन्हें रोक लेता, पकड़ लेता या संभाल लेता ? क्या उनके साथ कोई स्टाफ नहीं था ? इसके अलावा इस केस में कोई "आय विटनेस" है या नहीं । इस "आई विटनेस" के बारे में अगर आपके पास जानकारी है तो हमें बताइए । इसके अलावा आपने यह जो समय दिया है कि 10.50 बजे मृत्यु हुई तो सेक्युरिटी स्टाफ वहां कितने बजे पहुंचा ? उन्हें पोस्टमार्टम के लिए कितने बजे ले जाया गया और पोस्ट मार्टम की रिपोर्ट कितने बजे मिली ? इन बारे में समय बताया जाना चाहिए । महोदय, यह एक रहस्यमय मृत्यु है, कोई साधारण मृत्यु नहीं है । इसमें यह विचित्र लगता है कि सातवीं मंजिल से सीढ़ियों से आदमी गिरकर मर जाए और इतनी सीढ़ियों से गिरते कोई उसे देखे नहीं । इसलिए इसमें इस "आई विटनेस" कौन-कौन है, इस बारे में जानकारी दी जाए ।

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The statement is something two days old. It appears that there has been failure on the part of the military intelligence. The statement does not reveal from which floor the Major General fell and died. Even this basic fact has not been mentioned. There was also a lapse of time. I would like to know how much lapse of time was there when the incident took place and when the security staff posted in the 'A' wing went to the site. It is obvious that there would have been a guard or an orderly posted with such a high official. Did this orderly notice anything? Did he report to the higher authorities or to the concerned people?

Then, what does the *post mortem* report reveals What were the organs that were injured? What were the injuries that were identified during the *post mortem*? What did they confirm, a homicide or a suicide? Or, it simply mentioned that the death was accidental?

As Shrimati Satya Bahin mentioned, is the LTTE or some other organisation behind it?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Now, clarifications on the next statement in regard to the firing in the Poonch sector. Shri A. G. Kulkarni. He is not here: Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, it has been mentioned in the newspapers that the Pak troops and the militants forcibly took away the locals from the Kirni area and surrounding villages. It has been mentioned that they took away the locals, including women and children. They were taken forcibly to the Pak-occupied Kashmir. Some others went away from the area. Is it a fact? If it is a fact, what steps the Government is taking to see that these people come back and lead a normal life?

Secondly, it has been mentioned in the newspapers that the Pak troops constructed fortifications inside our territory. Is it a fact? If it is a fact, what action the Government is taking to remove these and prevent such things in future?

The Minister has not mentioned about any civilian casualties. But according to the newspapers, there were civilian casualties. Three people—Hanifa Bee-35 years, Lal Hussain-12 years and Farooq Ahmed-12 years-died. Three others—Mohammad Afzal-5 years, Khurshida Akhtar and

Zarina Bee-80 years—were injured. I would like to know why the Minister has not mentioned about the civilian casualties?

श्री कृष्णलाल शर्मा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है, उसमें पूरी जानकारी नहीं दी गई है। एक तो, नागरिक जो मरे हैं उनकी जानकारी नहीं दी गई और दूसरे, कुछ हमारे नागरिकों को पकड़कर पाकिस्तान के लोग ले गए हैं और वे अभी तक उनके पास हैं, उसकी भी जानकारी नहीं है । मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय यह जानकारी दें ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इससे भी महत्व की बात यह है कि मंत्री महोदय ने अपनी विक्षुब्ध इच्छा व्यक्त की है कि पाकिस्तान अब इसके बाद शिमला-समझौते का पालन करेगा । लेकिन, मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि पाकिस्तान तीन पाइंटस पर सीधा एक्शन कर रहा है—वह हमारे आंतरिक मामलों में, जम्मू-कश्मीर में हस्तक्षेप कर रहा है, नंबर एक, फिर उसके न्यूकलीयर बम बना लिया है और उसमें कोई एसोरेन्स नहीं दी कि वह उसे पीसफुल मीन्स के लिए इस्तेमाल करेगा, नंबर दो और वह हमारे बोर्डर का वायलेशन कर रहा है, क्लीयरकट कर रहा है, नंबर तीन । तो क्या इसके बारे में हम केवल धमकी देकर रह जाएंगे या कुछ करेंगे भी ? यह ठीक है, मैं मानता हूं कि हमारी आर्मी केपेबल है, लेकिन जब तक आर्मी को गवर्नमेंट की डायरेक्शन नहीं होगी तब तक वह कुछ भी नहीं कर पाएगी ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा यह पूछना है कि अपने अंदर के हस्तक्षेप को रोकने के लिए हमारा ठोस कदम पाकिस्तान के एक्शन के जवाब में क्या है ? वह जो न्यूकलीयर बम बना रहा है, उसका जवाब क्या भारत अपना न्यूकलीयर बम बनाकर देगा और अगर पाकिस्तान ने यूस किया तो हम भी उसको यूयू करने की तैयारी में हैं इसको डिक्लेयर करना चाहिए । तीसरी बात, अगर बोर्डर वायलेशन वह करते हैं तो उसका जवाब सिर्फ यह नहीं है कि हम अपने बोर्डर से उनको खदेड़ दें बल्कि उसका कुछ और हल होना चाहिए। उसको मुंह तोड़ जवाब देने का यह मतलब नहीं कि वह हमारे घर में आएं, लोगों को मार कर चले जाएं और बाद में हम उनको निकालते रहें । यह हमारी इंटेलिजेन्स की फेल्यर है वरना बोर्डर में से वे हमारे घर में कैसे घुस आए, मंत्री महोदय को इसका जवाब देना चाहिए। क्या हमारी आर्मी वहां पर नहीं थी उस एरिया में, जहां से व हमारे बोर्डर के अंदर घुस कर आ गए ? क्या हमारी आर्मी उस समय पैट्रोलिंग पर नहीं या उस सैक्शन में, जहां से ये पूंछ सैक्टर के किरनी इलाके में घुसे, या आए ? क्यों उनको मौका मिला कि वे घुसकर आए, इसका क्लेरिफिकेशन मिलना चाहिए ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given full particulars of the firing on our border by the Pakistani troops. According to the reports available, the Pakistani troops entered into the houses of Indians on our border side of Poonch area. Some of the resident ran away while others were taken into custody by the Pakistani troops. The militants and the Pakistani troops also entered into that area for the purpose of smuggling these militants inside our Indian territory. That was the motive behind the operation made by the Pakistani troops. But Sir, I do not understand, when the exchange of fire was on 24th, how they remained there for 7 days and only on 31st we had to launch an operation against the hide-outs where these people were located. I would like to know, when the Pakistan force is there on the Indo-Pak border, whether there is any fencing. I would like to know whether there are Indian posts where the exchange of fire took place.

Sir, it seems that they find this area viable for frequent infiltration of militants because they abet the locals who give shelter to militants to enter into our border through this area. If that is so, where is the necessity of keeping these 16 houses on the border? Why don't you shift them from that area to the nearby areas? We should keep that border area as a baren place so that the militants and Pakistani troops are not able to find entry into our border through that area.

I have to seek one more clarification. The hon. Minister has said that there was a meeting held on 2nd and 3rd September on ceasefire and a flag meeting was held. In the sector permanently there is exchange of fire taking place between Pakistani and Indian troops. Sometimes, they are killing our soldiers and civilians also. I would suggest that we should keep our army personnel vigilant and patrolling operations may be intensified in those areas. The hon. Minister has referred to the casualties. After saluting the jawans who have laid their lives for the unity and integrity of this country, I would like to know what benefit they are giving to the families of the deceased.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, from the statement given by the hon. Minister we find that after the incident that took place on the 23rd of August there was a flag meeting between the local Commanders on the 3rd of September where ceasefire was agreed upon. The statement also goes to say that it has been decided that another flag meeting will be held on Sunday, the 8th September. Sir, the statement only says that the meeting was held between the Army Commanders of the two countries. The statement does not say whether there has been any communication between the two countries at the diplomatic level, whether the Government of India has lodged any formal complaint with the Government of Pakistani at the diplomatic level because we understand from the statement that the Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing with a view to protect the militants. So, there should have been a formal complaint. The statement only says that the Government hopes that there will be no recurrence of such incidents and that the Government of Pakistan will realise the need to maintain peace along the border and to fully abide by the Simla Agreement.

I would like to get clarifications on these points from the hon. Minister.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister on the death of Maj. Gen. A. M. Malik is very vague I think the Press has reported more information on this tragedy. The Minister has mentioned in his statement that the Major General "reportedly fell down." I think the Minister has taken it from the Press.

It is important that late Mj. Gen. Malik was involved in the IPKF mission in Sri Lanka. There was every possibility that the family members of the Major and he himself might have been under threat of the LTTE militants. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any protection was provided to his family members and whether any civilian was permitted to enter the Sena Bhavan because it has been reported in the newspapers that the Major General fell from the Fourth Floor? Though his office was on the Seventh Floor, he fell down from the Fourth Floor. On Wednesday it was reported that it was not a habit with the officials of the Defence Ministry to wear uniform, but on that particulr days the major General was wearing his full uniform with all the medals. Has any link with this been found in this incident?

I want to have these clarifications from the hon. Minister.

[Shri John F. Fernandes]

About the second statement, it has been mentioned that these people were militants. May I know from the Minister whether they were civilians or they were army personnel in civilian uniform?

It is a known fact that on the line of actual control there are United Nations observers. Has any protest been lodged with them?

Second, it has been mentioned in the statement that 20 bodies were carried on the Pakistani side of the line of control. I want to know whether they were army personnel or militants.

Third, we have the hotline between Pakistan and New Delhi. Was this hotline used to see that this friction is settled amicably?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, first I would like to deal with the points raised on the statement regarding the death of Maj. Gen. Malik.

I have mentioned in the statement that as per the Army Act and Rules a board of inquiry has been constituted. The tradition in the Defence Department has always been that when a board of inquiry is constituted, we should not make any public statement which might prejudice not only the findings of the board of inquiry but also the course of investigation by the police. Of, course, there have been many surmises in the newspapers but when a Minister makes a statement on behalf of the Government, we can only state what is clearly known to us. We cannot make any surmises. We informally know or hear certain facts. For instance, it was suggested that he was looking for his peon downstairs, that he had ordered for his car and so on. That kind of informal information we cannot state in the House.

It is very important that the board of inquiry constituted by the Army, comes to the right conclusion because the right conclusion is important. Even the benefit the family of the General will get, depends upon the mode of his death. For instance,, if somebody makes a surmise that it was a case of suicide, then, they may not get the benefit entitled for the rest of their life. If it is an accidental death, then, they will get it. It is impossible for me to say anything unnecessary and it is incorrect, improper and illegal for me to give any details about which we are not sure. So I would request the hon. Members not to mention, not to request for more details regarding this very unfortunate incident at this stage.

As regards the firing incident in the Kirni area of Poonch Sector, as the hon. Members are aware there is the Line of Control between the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and our area. This Line of Control contains many sectors. There has been endemic firing between our troops and their troops in varying degrees among all the sectors of the Line of Control in the past. A total of, for instance, 1,410 incidents of trans-line of control firings have occurred in 1991 alone. In some periods of summer, the degree of firing escalates. This has been a continuous process. During the summer in four sectors in the Kargil sector, in the Machal sector, in the Koran sector and in the Poonch sector, there have been escalations of exchange of fire between our troops and their troops. In this particular incident in the Poonch sector, I have almost the hour-by-hour or day-by-day account of the developments of how these incidents have occurred. I do not want to take the time of the House in elaborating on it. One of the Members who raised this question yesterday said that almost three square kilometres of Indian area was captured. This is incorrect. On the night between 2nd and 3rd September, they had made a surreptitious incursion and got into about 16 houses, in an area, less than half a square kilometre. It is not as if the Army is always present all along the border nor are these fenced. There is no-man's land near the line of control where sporadic firing takes place for instance, when

people go to take water or graze the cattle. This is a continuous process. As soon as we got the information, the Army made the necessary grouping and in 48 hours, we have recaptured the area. We have mounted an operation. In the process, as I have already said in the statement twenty militants were killed, two Pakistani dead bodies were found in one of the houses. As a result of the negotiations held, we have given back the dead bodies to them. I have given in my main statement how many of our people were killed and injured. For the first times, in recent times, we have conducted Flag Officers level or the Commanders level meetings between the two countries. This Diplomatic exchanges between India and Pakistan on the border in the Jammu and Kashmir sector is a continuous process. The Foreign Secretary of India was summoned the Pakistani high Commissioner and lodged protest against this very serious incident.

About the general policy with regard not only to the Poonch sector but the Line of Control, my honourable senior colleague the Defence Minister has made a very detailed reply, in reply to the Defence debate only yesterday...

I do not want to cover the entire ground. I do not want to go into areas like the nuclear option and so on. India's very clearly stated position is that we can also have the nuclear capability, but we belive in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. As far as the relationship with Pakistan is concerned, our intention is to establish friendly relations with Pakistan so that both our countries can progress and use our scarce resources for our socio-economic development.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: But Benazir Bhutto the Opposition Leader of Pakistan, has said that Pakistan is possessing nuclear weapons. What is your stand? What are you going to do on that?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The Defence Minister has stated only yesterday that Pakistan statements, especially the gestures made during the visit of their Foreign Secretary here, and their actual operations on ground are contradictory. Contradictory signals are coming. Now, confining myself to this particular incident, it is our intention to see that such incidents are immediately de-escalated and that there is no question of the line of control being violated, there is no question of any territory being occupied. There is no question of any civilian being captured. There are about a hundred people who have migrated to the other side of the border. It is so reported. But the Pakistan army says that they had migrated on their own and they are quite willing to let them come over to this side of the line of control if they so desire. Discussions on this are also going on.

I think I have answered most of the points.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The point about fencing is not met. It is a sensitive area wherein, the hon. Minister has said, exchange of fire is going on frequently during the summer season. Why are you not fencing that area? Why do you keep it barren allowing Pakistanis to enter very freely. As is said, you cannot petrol all times. Then why don't you have a fencing so that infiltration may be avoided?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Fencing, as the hon Member knows cannot stop the exchange of fire.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It does not prevent the exchange of fire. But it will prevent militants or other people for entering this side. We want an answer to this because Pakistani forces, militants and other people entered the Indian territory and then the firing took place.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: It is a very long border. The question of fencing is a very costly proposition about which I cannot give a definite

[Shri S. Krishna Kumar]

answer now. I am only talking about this incident and the history behind it, how it has happened. And we are trying to see that there is no escalation ... (*Interruptions*)... Whenever there is an incident, our response will be firm and it has been firm. In 48 hours we have recaptured the area and driven away the enemy. There is no delay. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN (Tamil Nadu): First, there was a capture. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I agree with you, Mr. Minister. But why do you allow Pakistani troops and militants to enter in and then repulse their attack? Why don't you have preventive measure? That is what we are asking. In sensitive areas, you should have fencing.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा: मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जिस एरिया में आपको 48 घंटे लगे लोगों को, पाकिस्तानी ट्रूप्स को निकालने में क्या उसको आप ऑर्डिनरी ऑसिडेन्ट मानते है मामूली घुसपैठ मानते हैं। इस में अगर आपको 48 घंटे लगे हैं तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह मामूली इंसिडेंट नहीं है।

This requires some explanation. You took 48 hours to oust them. This is not an ordinary incident.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Within 48 hours, our army had grouped itself, planned the operation and taken back the area and evacuated the houses. The army always thinks in terms of minimum casualities from our side. In 48 hours they have recaptured the area and driven away the enemy. And I do not think there can be any norm for this. It is left to the local Commanders on how best to do it.

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन: महोदय, मैं एक निवेदन मंत्री जी से करना चाहती हूं मलिक साहब के संबंध में किसी सवाल का आपने जवाब नहीं दिया है हालांकि बहुत से ऐसे मामले थे जिनकी जांच आवश्यक थी लेकिन मैं फिर भी निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि जांच होने के बाद उसके निष्कर्षों को क्या सदन में रखेंगे, यह बता दें।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): You need not react to this.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, I have submitted to the House the circumstances under which I do not want to make any surmises on behalf of the Government in relation to it. When the report is there, then the Army will have to decide on the seriousness of the report. We have certain norms on what reports are to be published and what reports are not to be published. I cannot give an assurance. But certainly the circumstances can be made known to the hon. Members.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Hon. Members, I have a list of fifteen Members who want to make Special Mentions. If the House agrees, then we can allow them to make their Special Mentions.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Sir, we want to make.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): All right.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Delay in the construction of Konkan Railway Line

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government, especially the Minister of Railways, through you, to a matter of utmost importance. The issue is the delay in the construction of Konkan Railway line. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Mr. Balaram please wait for one minute. With the